1993 and how many crores of Rupees have been given by Government to Indian Oil Corporation as subsidy on this account year-wise; and

(d) what action Government have taken to stop further imports to save the domestic small scale industries which are facing closure on account of this subsidised import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) While the domestic production of Paraffin Wax Type-III is sufficient to meet the demand, Paraffin Wax Type-I and Type-II are being imported as they are deficit. The import of Paraffin Wax and the subsidy on it for the last 3 years are as under:

Year	Quantity of Paraffin Wax imported (MT)	Subsidy (Rs. crores)
1990-91	25242	58
1991-92	24964	100
1992-93	27966	119

(d) The import and export of Paraffin Wax has been decanalised since April, 1992. Export of Paraffin Wax Type-III on an experimental basis has been undertaken by Madras Refineries Ltd. during 1991-92 and 1992-93 in view of the surplus available. Further, as against a projected deficit of 32,000 MT for 1993-94 for Type-I and Type-II Waxes, Government have allowed the import of only 30,000 MT.

झंजीरा-विजयपुर-जगदीशपुर गैस पाइपलाइन में गैस-प्रवाह की मात्रा में वृद्धि किया जाना

*313. श्री कैलाश नारायण सारंग : क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजनावधि में ह्य. बि. ज. गैस पाइपलाइन से प्रवाहित होने वाली गैस को दुगुने से भी अधिक करने की कोई योजना है; और

(ख) इस समय मध्य प्रदेश को इस गैस पाइपलाइन के जरिए गैस की कितनी मात्रा सप्लाई की जा रही है और इस प्रवाह के दुगुने होने पर राज्य को गैस की कितनी मात्रा दिये जाने का अनुमान है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा) : (क) गैस अथारिटी आफ इंडिया लिमिटेड ने पहले ही की गई वचनबद्धता को पूरा करने के लिए एच. बी. जे. पाइपलाइन को अपग्रेड करने के संबंध में एक प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत किया है।

(ख) एच. बी. जे. पाइपलाइन से पहले ही मध्य प्रदेश में निम्नलिखित उपभोक्ताओं को गैस की आपूर्ति की जा रही है :—

(1) एन. एफ. एल., विजयपुर — 1.8 एम. एम. एस. सी. एम. डी.

(2) गेल, एल. पी. जी. संयंत्र — 1.0 एम. एम. एस. सी. एम. डी.

एच. बी. जे. पाइपलाइन के अपग्रेड किये जाने पर एन. एफ. एल. के विजयपुर संयंत्र और गेल द्वारा स्थापित किये जाने वाले अतिरिक्त एल. पी. जी. संयंत्र को 1.8 एम. एम. एस. सी. एम. डी. अतिरिक्त गैस की आपूर्ति की जाएगी।

Ninth International Conference on AIDS

*314. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the Ninth International Conference on AIDS held in Berlin in the second week of June, 1993, the spread of AIDS in India and the sub-continent was considered;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what were the main recommendations and observations of the Conference about identifying and checking the spread of AIDS; and

(d) what was the aid recommended at the Conference for India from foreign agencies and WHO for the AIDS programme?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) AIDS which was held in Berlin from June 6-11, 1993 took a panoramic view of the Global AIDS situation. In the process, attention was focussed on the potential threat in South-East Asia and more particularly in Thailand and India. There was an unanimous recognition that while the largest number of AIDS cases were being reported from sub-Saharan Africa, a serious situation was developing in South-East and South Asia. This was supported by the presentations made by the Indian participants to the conference.

The conference did not make any recommendations as such. There were in-depth discussions about the spread of the infection, surveilance, blood safety, research activities, intervention strategies, networking with community-based organisations, risk factors in perinatal transmission; structural impediments to preventive and promotional strategies and the role of policy in effective prevention, education and care.

There were no specific recommendations relating to external assistance for national AIDS Control Programme, either in India or in any other part of the world.

Blindness due to Cataract

*315. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH :
SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM :
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that cataract-caused blindness is a major health problem in India: if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of people awaiting cataract operation and how many operations are being conducted every year;

(c) the number of people that join the ranks of cataract patients every year;

(d) whether the growing life expectancy of the population aggravates to this problem, if so, in what manner;

(e) what steps Government have taken to contain this problem; and

(f) what are the details of major impediments to solve or minimise this problem ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (d) Yes, Sir. Cataract is mainly an age related phenomenon and increase in longevity and the relative inadequacies of ophthalmic services, particularly in remote areas has contributed to the problem.

(b) The backlog of cataract cases is estimated at 22 million. 1.6 million operations were conducted in 1992-93.

(c) The annual incidence of cataract induced blindness is estimated at 2 million.

(e) and (f) Under the National Programme for the Control of Blindness, strengthening of the ophthalmic infrastructure, establishment of District Blindness Societies and District Mobile Units has been taken up to facilitate eye camps. The financial outlays for the centrally sponsored blindness control programme have been increased substantially. The World Bank has been approached for assistance to support a project for the Control of Blindness in 7 States in the Country.

Throwing of Debris and Boulders into river Damodar

*316. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA :
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government are aware that in the coalbelt region of Bihar and West Bengal in the open cast mining the debris and boulders are simply pushed into river Damodar which not only affects the pisciculture but also increases the sediment in the river and its reservoirs;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) Coal mining activities especially opencast mining will generate overburden including boulders/debris during excavation, depending on the stripping ratio. This is true in relation to opencast mining in Damodar basin of Bihar and West Bengal. The overburden is generally reclaimed through afforestation, soil stabilisation and partially utilised for reclamation of mined area. However during certain periods, the unstabilised overburden may get washed down and reach the nearby water courses causing siltation degrading the water quality. As per information furnished by the Bihar State Pollution Control Board, they have observed increased sediment load in Damodar river water, however no adverse report on pisciculture has been received by the State Board. Specific conditions are stipulated for all coal mining projects as part of the environmental clearance. They include afforestation of the overburden dump areas, use of overburden for land reclamation, soil stabilisation, control of air water pollution to standards prescribed by the State Boards etc. Implementation of these conditions is regularly monitored by the State/ Central agencies.